



SAVERA UK

SAVERA UK YOUTH PROJECT: Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Background

Savera UK Youth are a group of young people aged 11 – 25 years who are passionate about raising awareness amongst their peers about harmful practices.

Savera UK will address the gap in knowledge, amongst young people, about harmful practices within communities, cultural diversity and the rights of a child. This is not something that is on UK school curricula so it is vital to educate future generations about harmful practices in order to prevent them, as well as making them aware of these issues amongst their peer groups.

The Savera UK Youth projects will empower young people, and inspire them to lead and advocate for the work that Savera UK does, allowing them to develop and gain skills.

What is a Youth Advisory Board?

The YAB is a group of young people and adult professionals who come together to make positive change for young people and the communities they live in. The aim of the YAB is to identify issues that impact on young people, and to play a strategic role in meeting these needs. YAB are the voice of young people at Savera UK, providing a youth perspective on the organisation's activities. YABs identify the issues that young people care most about and then take action through campaigning, lobbying, advocacy and advising about commissioning services. The YABs' ambition is to influence services design, delivery and policies, to make them what young people want and need, and to improve outcomes for all young people and their futures. YABs are young people's opportunity to have a say in the decisions affecting young people in the area.

Who can be part of the Youth Advisory Board?

Savera UK is open to applications for YAB (see YAB Application Form). The age limit is currently 11-25.

The role of the Youth Advisory Board?

As part of the YAB you will be ambassadors for Savera UK, making key decisions on the direction of the Savera UK Youth Programme. The YAB will be aware of the problems facing young people in today's society, as well as having an understanding of harmful practices. The YAB will be interested in the opportunity to do something positive about these issues. The YAB will work with the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer, and Savera UK Director & Chair to organise events and campaigns, in line with the aims of the Savera UK Youth Programme. The YAB may also take part in school engagement sessions with the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer.

- The YAB has been created to serve as an independent youth-led and youth-focused panel.
- To empower other young people.
- Each member of the YAB must agree to deliver their role for a minimum of one year, after which there will be a review.
- Each YAB member will be required to sign an agreement (see YAB Agreement) of their role and commitments.
- Through the agreement of roles, each member is taking on a responsibility to attend each group meeting and to come prepared for each meeting.
- All of the members of the YAB must decide, and agree together, the boundaries and expectations of the members.
- Each member is expected to be well organised and to read agendas and relevant paperwork, ahead of each meeting.

Meetings

- The dates of future meetings will be discussed periodically but will be expected to be at least quarterly (every three months) or monthly if necessary
- Venue of the meetings will be decided by the group
- Topics discussed will be generated by the previous meeting and the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer
- Meetings will be arranged via email by the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer
- When available, Savera UK Board Members will be invited with the group's permission
- Each YAB member will take it in turn to be the minute-taker and/or chair
- A YAB representative may be invited to Savera UK Board Meetings for updates.

Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)

- If the YAB require access to a computer, telephone or internet it is to be agreed before the meeting so the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer can provide it.
- If the YAB require anything of monetary value for the group or events this will need to be approved by the Campaign and Youth Engagement Officer and the Savera UK Director and Chair. All budgets must be approved and signed off prior to project commencement.
- Group meetings may be discussed in a WhatsApp Group.

Membership attributes:

- Proactive
- Diverse
- Passionate
- Committed
- Volunteerism
- Self-Managing
- User or Ex user of youth services
- Aware of youth issues
- Ambitious
- Campaigner
- Networker
- Advocate
- Computer Skills
- Organised
- Get involved
- Team player
- Optimistic

What will you receive as part of the Youth Advisory Board?

Savera UK wants the YAB to develop and gain skills to empower young people and inspire them to lead, and advocate, for the work that Savera UK does. As well as the skills you will receive through undertaking tasks for the projects, Savera UK want our YAB to take part in personal development programme where appropriate to help build interpersonal skills and confidence.

Review Process

Every YAB member, after appointment, needs to sign an agreement before he or she may contribute at any meeting of the YAB.

The YAB will be reviewed annually.

Two members of the YAB must retire at each review, those longest in office retiring first and the choice between any of equal service being made by drawing lots.

A retiring YAB member who remains qualified may be reappointed for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms of office.

A YAB member's term of office automatically terminates if he or she:

- 1- Is absent from 3 consecutive YAB meetings within a 6 month period and is asked by the majority of the other YAB members to resign;
- 2- Resigns by written notice to the YAB

The YAB may at any time co-opt any individual young person who is qualified to be appointed as a YAB member to fill a vacancy in their number. The co-opted YAB member holds office only until the next review.